

<b>Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee</b>
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The goal of the Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee will be to guide the development and implementation of a unified data system; research initiatives; and quality program and system evaluations – in order to provide better information to support and further improve early childhood programs throughout the state. To achieve this goal, the Committee will work to fulfill the following four objectives:

- 1) To develop the design for an early childhood data system that provides better information to providers, parents, policymakers, advocates and the public about the operation of Illinois' early childhood system;
- 2) To support the specific data, research, and evaluation needs of the Early Learning Council by collaborating with other committees to assist with current projects and more generally, by acting as a resource for existing and current research in the field;
- 3) To provide recommendations that would define and address the larger scope of research and evaluation needs for publicly funded early childhood programs and services throughout the state of Illinois; and
- 4) To remain informed about the progress of existing early childhood data collection systems in Illinois and provide input on early childhood data to other bodies or agencies as needed.

To achieve these objectives, the Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee will work collaboratively with other committees within the Early Learning Council, with other committees or workgroups outside of the Early Learning Council (such as the P-20 Council), and with any other entity as listed in the work plan or otherwise relevant to the work.

Objective 1	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
<b>To develop the design for an early childhood data system that provides better information to providers, parents, policymakers, advocates and the public about the operation of Illinois' early childhood system.</b>	1. Complete contract process for the consultant to begin work on the design for a unified early childhood data system	OECD	Completed
	2. Oversee and facilitate the consultant's work, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop and conduct interviews with key state and local agencies around their current systems and vision</li> <li>b. Create process flow diagram and narrative functional analysis on all government and partially government funded data systems and provide a report to OECD and DRE Committee</li> <li>c. Review relevant systems used by other states</li> <li>d. Provide analysis and recommendations for common early childhood data standards</li> <li>e. Provide analysis and recommendations for the extension of the Recipient Identification Number (RIN) to all DHS Early Childhood Systems and other DHS system integrations and enhancements</li> <li>f. Create gap analysis report on early childhood data that is collected in the IDLS and Framework system</li> <li>g. Provide gap analysis to OECD, DRE Committee, ISBE, and DHS</li> <li>h. Create and present general system design on how to fill the gaps between IDLS and Framework and link the two data systems to create a coordinated data system to the OECD and DRE Committee</li> <li>i. Provide analysis and recommendations for inclusion of Head Start/Early Head Start data in state data collection processes and systems</li> <li>j. Develop comprehensive technical architecture of systems and data</li> <li>k. Identify position risks and issues that may arise during system development (i.e. legal, administrative, technical, and political)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>l. Provide recommendations for necessary interagency agreement, policy, business and staffing changes necessary to implement data sharing</li> <li>m. Create an RFI for data system design that will inform the creation of an RFP for services (optional)</li> </ul>	DHS, OECD, DRE Committee	Begin by June 2012 and completed by end of grant period

<sup>1</sup> This includes security and privacy (HIPAA/FERPA) concerns.

Objective 1	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
	n. Create the RFP to solicit IT solutions for development of the unified early childhood data system		
	3. Collaborate with consultant to ensure the design of the unified early childhood system is informed by current efforts and recommendations made by ELC committees, such as: a. Ensure that children referred for early intervention and special education 0-5 are tracked in a unified manner from birth through 21, including decisions of ineligibility ( <i>Systems Integration and Alignment Committee</i> ) b. Recommendations about new information that should be collected and/or analyses that should be conducted over the next two years to further refine capital planning and funding decisions ( <i>Family and Community Engagement Committee</i> ) c. Inclusion of Birth to Three Monitoring Workgroup recommended data elements within ETO data collection system ( <i>Home Visiting Taskforce</i> )	DRE Committee, Other ELC Committees	
	4. Recommend a governance framework for the unified early childhood data system a. Research governance frameworks in use and under development in Illinois b. Research governance frameworks in use and under development in other states c. Identify areas for the governance framework to address related to creation of the system d. Identify areas for the governance framework to address to maintain the system e. Create framework f. Propose policy changes necessary to implement framework	DRE Committee, agencies, P-20 Council	Completed by end of grant period <i>*contingent upon presentation of general system design by contractor</i>
	5. Propose framework for using data collected by system to strengthen the data-driven decision-making used to inform early childhood program and system improvement a. Research and create an inventory of potential “end users” for an early childhood data system (i.e. providers, parents, policymakers, and other relevant local and state stakeholders)	DRE Committee	Begin June 2012 and to be completed by end of grant period

*Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee Objectives and Work Plan – 8/29/12*

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe/Status</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Identify opportunities for strengthening decision-making in the state through use of data system, in collaboration with other committees</li> <li>c. Identify data elements that could be useful to decision-makers based on identified priorities</li> <li>d. Create framework</li> </ul>		
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hired contractor to complete design for the early childhood data system</li> <li>2. Completed design for unified early childhood data system</li> <li>3. Completed governance framework for early childhood data system</li> <li>4. Completed framework for use of data to drive decision-making for program and system improvement</li> </ul>		Completed by end of grant period
<b>Comments</b>	If determined by the issued guidelines for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge that the unified early childhood data system may be a part of the upcoming application, the DRE Committee will also work to provide input to support this effort.		

Objective 2	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
<b>To support the specific data, research, and evaluation needs of the Early Learning Council by collaborating with other committees to assist with current projects and more generally, by acting as a resource for existing and current research in the field.</b>	1. Identify and help prioritize the specific data, research, evaluation needs of other ELC committees and other relevant entities through attending cross-committee meetings, gathering feedback at Executive Committee meetings, maintaining relationships with other relevant bodies, and whatever other means are appropriate and necessary.	Chairs with DRE Committee support	Initial wave in spring/summer 2012; then ongoing
	2. Act as a resource to help guide the development of ELC projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be a source for information about relevant research in the field (i.e. through development of a research database), which includes collecting relevant information from the appropriate entities and people</li> <li>Provide access to individuals with data expertise either from within the DRE committee or through external networks</li> <li>Connect committees with different funding streams, grants, etc. to complete work</li> </ol>	Staffer with DRE Committee support	Ongoing
	3. Share suggestions for related work in ELC committees <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be informed of emerging areas/gaps in data, research, or evaluation that other ELC committees may consider addressing through their work</li> <li>Identify areas where work could be connected and completed cross-committee or areas where there might be duplication of efforts</li> <li>Share recommendations with Executive Committee</li> </ol>	DRE Committee	Ongoing
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of an inventory of needs for ELC projects related to data, research, and evaluation</li> <li>Development of research database</li> <li>Increased guidance and funding for ELC data, research, and evaluation projects</li> </ol>		Begin in spring/summer 2012; then ongoing
<b>Comments</b>	Specific Needs Currently Raised in Other Committees' Work Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and implementation of statewide data system (Social Solutions' Efforts to Outcomes) to collect program and participant information and MIECHV database (<i>Home Visiting Taskforce</i>)</li> <li>Connect with work being done at the Data, Research and Evaluation Committee and other K-12 tables for best practices in aligning the early childhood and K-12 systems (<i>Systems Integration and Alignment Committee</i>)</li> <li>Develop strategies to address findings from the Berkeley Workforce Study and from the collection of workforce data through the Gateways to Opportunities Registry and Gateways programs (<i>Program Standards and Quality Committee</i>)</li> </ul>		

Objective 3	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
<b>To provide recommendations that would define and address the larger scope of research and evaluation needs for publicly funded early childhood programs and services throughout the state of Illinois.</b>	1. Determine and create a database of relevant research and evaluation projects currently occurring in the state	Committee	Begin in spring/summer 2012; then ongoing
	2. Identify relevant research and evaluation projects currently underway in other states	Staffer with DRE Committee support	fall/winter 2012
	3. Identify gaps in research and evaluation that would lend to improving early childhood programming and services	DRE Committee	spring/summer 2013
	4. Share collected information with other committees, government agencies, collaborative, etc. for feedback	Chairs/Staffer	fall 2013
	5. Develop recommendations for a comprehensive agenda	DRE Committee	fall/winter 2013
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Database of current research and evaluation projects and related gap analysis</li> <li>2. Recommendations for future research and evaluation projects for the state</li> </ol>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed by end of 2013 for distribution in 2014</p>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Specific Needs Currently Raised in Other Committees' Work Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask researchers from Chapin Hall, IECAM and other places to identify demographic data sources and limitations in reference to hard-to-reach families. Discuss ways to collect relevant data to determine if funding streams are serving more such families over time. (<i>Family and Community Engagement Committee</i>)</li> <li>• Using the ongoing data collected by Social Solutions, develop a research agenda evaluating the effectiveness of home visiting programs and infrastructure to inform the continuous quality improvement of Illinois' evidence-based home visiting programs and system (<i>Home Visiting Taskforce</i>)</li> </ul>		

Objective 4	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
<b>To remain informed about the progress of existing early childhood data collection systems in Illinois and provide input on early childhood data to other bodies or agencies as needed.</b>	1. Identify and coordinate with other data-related committees, councils, and collaboratives outside of Early Learning Council, such as Illinois Collaborative of Educational Policy Research (ICEPR), P-20 Council, and any other related bodies.	Identification: Staffer with DRE Committee support; Coordination: Chairs	Ongoing
	2. Remain informed about progress of current data initiatives in state government, including but not limited to: a. Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) b. Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) c. Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) d. ISBE Student Information System (SIS) e. Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) f. DHS Framework g. Gateways to Opportunity Registry h. MIECHV Database i. Early Intervention Web-based Data System (YEIDS)	DRE Committee	Ongoing
	3. Provide input to state agencies about the content of early childhood data currently being collected , reported, and utilized a. Provide input to ISBE on including 0-3 data and expanding 3-5 data being collected in the ILDS b. Provide input to DHS and ISBE on collection and tracking information on all children referred for special education under IDEA (0-5) c. Provide input to ISBE related to collection of data on ISBE's statutory requirement to respond to requests for evaluation within 14 school days d. Determine current progress of data system for Child Care Assistance Program and provide input as needed	DRE Committee	Ongoing
	4. Collaborate with state agencies to ensure data is made publicly accessible in a timely and user-friendly manner, and that the data itself is accurate and handled properly a. Request access to relevant data for analysis	DRE Committee	Ongoing

Objective 4	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
	b. Develop recommendations (if needed) for improving accessibility and/or accuracy c. Ensuring that data reporting includes disaggregated data reflecting the state's linguistic and cultural diversity		
	5. Act as a resource to help guide the development of new data initiatives in the state a. Identify new data initiatives b. Coordinate with agencies during the development process c. Offer recommendations/input	DRE Committee	Ongoing
Outcomes	1. Increased collaboration with other data-related committees, councils, and collaboratives outside of Early Learning Council 2. Provided input to state agencies: a. Increased accessibility and accuracy of current data b. Coordinated with ISBE around including 0-3 data and expanding 3-5 data in the ILDS c. Coordinated with ISBE and DHS around data collection for children referred for special education d. Guided progress of current data system for Child Care Assistance Program 3. Provided input during the development of new data initiatives		Ongoing
Comments	Specific Needs Currently Raised in Other Committees' Work Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and implementation of statewide data system (Social Solutions' Efforts to Outcomes) to collect program and participant information and MIECHV database (<i>Home Visiting Taskforce</i>)</li> </ul>		